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of Napoleon the Third's, which imposes upon the multitude. The administrative system capable of providing an adequate civil and military organization for a vast empire may serve to point the way to a world government.

In line with the characteristic sobriety which presides over his treatment of the subject, the author declares that "so long as current political philosophy in Europe remains what it is, I would not urge the reduction of our war budget by a single sovereign or a single dollar." In other words, being still under the dominion of false ideas which govern the minds of those about us, we must be prepared to defend ourselves from the action to which these fallacies may lead. Let us keep up a high degree of efficient armament; study this great question; and try to help others to reach a better understanding.

ELLERY CORY STOWELL.

The Cambridge Modern History. Vol. VI, *The Eighteenth Century.* Pp. xxxiii, 1019. Vol. XII, *The Latest Age.* Pp. xxxiv, 1033. Price, \$4.00 each. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909 and 1910.

With the appearance of the twelfth volume, the now well-known Cambridge Modern History is complete, so far as the narrative history is concerned. "The Latest Age," in the words of the prospectus, bringing "the history down to the last syllable of recorded time" to the point where history passes into action. Two supplementary volumes are still to appear; the first, an elaborate, historical atlas for the period; the second, composed of genealogical and other tables and the general index. But the historical writing for the work is before us, and it is appropriate in considering the last volumes to examine the work as a whole.

The plan to publish a comprehensive History of Modern Times in a series of volumes was decided upon by the Syndics of Cambridge University in 1896. At the time there was one man who by his position as regius professor of history at Cambridge University, by his broad culture and his careful training in the methods of the scientific historian was pre-eminently the man to direct the work. Lord Acton became the editor-in-chief, and at once threw himself into the task with much enthusiasm. Unfortunately he had time only to get his project well started when he died. But the plan had been sketched and it has been faithfully adhered to even though the unifying force of his master mind has been sadly missed.

This plan, it will be remembered, was to give to the world a co-operative history in which each important topic of a period would be treated by a foremost specialist, so that there would be a score or more of contributors for each volume. In this way it was hoped the work would be "history . . . as each of several parts is known to the man who knows it best." The period treated is the last four hundred years, an era, "which is marked off by an evident and intelligible line from the time immediately preceding, and displays in its course specific and distinctive characteristics of its own." We may or may not agree with the idea of an interruption to the law of historic progress in the fifteenth century, and we may believe that co-operative histories are

better done when more extended periods are assigned to the individual writers, but our present purpose is rather to point out the particular characteristics, the strong and the weak points of this monumental work in twelve large volumes of about one thousand pages each.

The subjects of the different volumes are as follows: Vol. I, "The Renaissance;" Vol. II, "The Reformation;" Vol. III, "The Wars of Religion;" Vol. IV, "The Thirty Years' War;" Vol. V, "The Age of Louis XIV;" Vol. VI, "The Eighteenth Century;" Vol. VII, "The United States;" Vol. VIII, "The French Revolution;" Vol. IX, "Napoleon;" Vol. X, "The Restoration;" Vol. XI, "The Growth of Nationalities;" Vol. XII, "The Latest Age." That there is anything original or suggestive either in the names or the periodization, even the most ardent enthusiast for the work would hardly claim. One sees the familiar divisions, the familiar nomenclature of the "Periods of European History," and one wonders if there has been no progress, nothing new, in the last two decades of historical study to justify at least an occasional deviation from the conventional outline. A treatment based more upon the evolutionary process of human progress might have furnished the unifying idea which is so conspicuously absent, not only in the work as a whole, but also in the individual volumes themselves.

The volumes of the Cambridge Modern History are not suited to giving one a connected or progressive survey of the particular field of history with which they deal. And herein lies perhaps the one great departure from Lord Acton's plan. That the idea of unity and of historic evolution was strong in his mind, we know, but the execution of the plan had to be effected without the fusing power of his master mind. On the other hand, it is very questionable whether he could, had he lived, have welded the diversified contributions of the sixty or more contributors into a well knit and united whole.

Details such as errors in statement of facts which occur occasionally, though considering the magnitude of the work infrequently; a displeasing unevenness between chapters which are necessarily side by side; an over-emphasis of political history as against the social and economic, certain unscholarly features in many of the otherwise remarkably fine bibliographies; all these have been pointed out as the individual volumes have appeared, and the last two volumes show no deviation from the earlier ones in these respects. They are "true to type." There is no point of view consistently held throughout the volumes, and in spite of Lord Acton's idea to "keep to the main line, attending to the byways at the junction only," we again have a great deal of matter that cannot but be classed as superfluous detail and unrelated facts. The broad comprehensive survey is again absent, particularly in the volume on the eighteenth century. In the last volume, "The Latest Age," however, the spirit of the contemporary era is manifest in a striking degree in many of the contributions and the work possesses an exceptional degree of unity. If the great dynamic forces are not defined and outlined for us, we are at least obliged to see and feel them in operation in an unusually vivid and intense manner, in every phase of recent development. Indeed the editors are to be congratulated on the exceptionally high standard of excellence of the bulk

of the chapters of this volume. Of especial merit is the chapter on the *French Empire* by Emile Bourgeois, Thomas Okey's study of *United Italy*, the survey of the *German Empire* by Hermann Oncken, Pollock on the *Modern Law of Nations* and Sidney Webb's study of *Social Movements*. For American readers, Mr. Westlake's account of the *Foreign Relations of the United States During the Civil War* is of particular interest, while the specialist in history will find the chapter by Mr. Gooch on the *Growth of Historical Science* suggestive and valuable. While the bibliographies are similar to those of the rest of the work, that of "The Latest Age," though remarkably suggestive and helpful, is of less permanent value because archives were in the main not available for this period, and critical studies have as yet not been made of even the most essential printed documents.

But when all has been said against the Cambridge Modern History it remains to acknowledge that it is a monumental work, supplying a much felt need. The manner of its making prevents it from being easily read consecutively because of the lack of continuity. Indeed very many of the individual contributions are too dry and detailed to be read. But by the side of these there are other monographs—for such the best of the contributions are—that are not only entertaining, but which afford the most thorough treatment of the topic upon the basis of the latest historical study of the period available.

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Davis, W. S. *The Influence of Wealth in Imperial Rome.* Pp. xi, 340. Price, \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

Tucker, T. G. *Life in the Roman World of Nero and St. Paul.* Pp. xix, 453. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

That there has been a great revival in interest in Roman history in the past few years is attested not only by the establishment of chairs in ancient history in most of our leading universities but by the enthusiastic reception on the part of the public of the translation of Ferrero's works and the appearance of a considerable number of books in English dealing with various aspects of the Roman world. The notable monograph of Botsford on the Roman Assemblies is a constitutional study addressed only to scholars, while Heitland's three-volume work on the Roman Republic and Henderson's study of the civil wars following the death of Nero deal with political and military history; but the chief interest at present is naturally in the economic, social, and religious field, as may be seen by such books as Fowler's *Roman Life In the Age of Cicero*, Dill's *Social Life From Nero to Marcus Aurelius*, and Glover's *Conflict of Religions in the Roman Empire*.

To this latter class belong the books of Davis and Tucker. Neither one is an original contribution to our stock of knowledge. Both are addressed to the educated public and admirably fulfil their purpose of pre-